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LRB099 11165 SXM 34038 a

1                   AMENDMENT TO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 52

2           AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Joint Resolution 52 by  
3 replacing everything after the heading with the following:

4           "WHEREAS, The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career  
5 Success has documented the critical role higher education plays  
6 in economic recovery and growth, particularly in ensuring the  
7 State has an educated workforce to meet the needs of business  
8 and industry; and

9           WHEREAS, The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career  
10 Success recommends that the Board of Higher Education, in  
11 consultation with other State agencies for education,  
12 employment, and economic development, "increase the number of  
13 high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of  
14 the economy and an increasingly global society"; and

15           WHEREAS, Illinois has committed to the goal that 60% of its

1 workforce will hold a high-quality college credential by 2025  
2 to ensure its economic future; and

3 WHEREAS, Most recent projections from the Georgetown  
4 University Center on Education and the Workforce are that 70%  
5 of Illinois jobs will require postsecondary education by 2020;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Currently, only 42.5% of the State's nearly 7  
8 million working-age adults between the ages of 25 and 64 years  
9 hold at least a 2-year college degree; and

10 WHEREAS, There is a critical need for Illinois institutions  
11 of higher education to increase the number of postsecondary  
12 degrees in fields of critical skills shortages, such as  
13 healthcare, construction, computer technology, public safety,  
14 and mechanical fields; and

15 WHEREAS, Illinois' economic success requires providing  
16 college credentials aligned with current and future workforce  
17 needs at the State and regional levels; and

18 WHEREAS, Achieving workforce needs depends upon additional  
19 strategic State investment in higher education, along with  
20 improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of the higher  
21 education system; and

1           WHEREAS, Working age adults attempting to return to school  
2 to complete certificates and degrees in high-demand fields face  
3 many barriers to success; and

4           WHEREAS, The Illinois Council of Community College  
5 Presidents has recommended that the community college system be  
6 allowed to grant 4-year baccalaureate degrees for nursing and  
7 other applied career areas; and

8           WHEREAS, The development of postsecondary degree programs  
9 should be predicated on evidence of the needs of Illinois  
10 residents rather than institutional interests; and

11           WHEREAS, The Board of Higher Education has the statutory  
12 authority and responsibility to review all applications for new  
13 academic degree programs for public community colleges and  
14 universities; therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
17 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Board of Higher Education  
18 establish a Higher Education Commission on the Future of the  
19 Workforce; and be it further

20           RESOLVED, That the Commission shall be comprised of 11

1 members, including one senator appointed by the President of  
2 the Senate, one senator appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
3 Senate, one representative appointed by the Speaker of the  
4 House of Representatives, one representative appointed by the  
5 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and the  
6 remaining 7 members appointed by the Board of Higher Education  
7 to represent a cross-section of the education, employment, and  
8 economic development communities, as well as experts in quality  
9 postsecondary degree creation; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Board of Higher Education shall provide  
11 administrative support to the Commission; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Commission's study shall include, but  
13 not be limited to the following:

14 (1) examining and analyzing current and projected  
15 workforce needs for each economic region of the State and  
16 postsecondary degree and credential production capacity  
17 and goals;

18 (2) identifying State, regional, and national partners  
19 available to support efficient and effective delivery of  
20 postsecondary credential and degree programs aligned with  
21 regional workforce needs;

22 (3) determining current policies and practices in  
23 Illinois being utilized among Illinois' public and private  
24 colleges and universities for partnerships for degree

1 completion;

2 (4) examining opportunities for expanding  
3 postsecondary certificates and associate and baccalaureate  
4 completions using effective and efficient strategies and  
5 partnerships among high schools, technical schools,  
6 community colleges, and 4-year colleges and universities;

7 (5) developing distance and online learning, as well as  
8 competency-based credits to serve place-bound and adult  
9 learners, including military personnel and veterans;

10 (6) examining incentives for students to enter and  
11 complete degree programs in critical-needs areas,  
12 particularly aimed at underemployed and displaced workers;

13 (7) examining improvements in student advising,  
14 including articulation, transfer, and acceptance of  
15 credits to streamline the education pipeline to the  
16 workforce;

17 (8) providing incentives, including financial  
18 assistance, for working adults and individuals with  
19 substantial college credit, but no degree, to complete  
20 college degrees;

21 (9) analyzing best practices implemented in other  
22 states for incentivizing certificate and degree  
23 completion, including incentives for students and for  
24 colleges and universities; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Commission shall report to the General

1 Assembly and the Governor 6 months from the formation of the  
2 Commission; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
4 delivered to the Governor, the chairperson of the Board of  
5 Higher Education, the chairperson of the Illinois Community  
6 College Board, the chairperson of the State Board of Education,  
7 the chairperson of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission,  
8 the chairperson of the Employment Security Advisory Board, and  
9 the president of each public and private college and university  
10 in the State."